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that personally he was a strong temperance man, a member of the Good Templars. It would be writing a history of Wisconsin in the decade of the seventies to detail the events of Taylor's administration. No doubt the so-called Potter Law, fixing railway rates, was its outstanding feature. Such legislation appears to have been in advance of public sentiment. At any rate both the Potter Law and Governor Taylor went to defeat in the gubernatorial campaign of 1875, and the farmer governor retired to his Dane County farm the first of the year 1876. His later life was undistinguished, devoted to his farm and family. In 1905 the infirmities of age made it necessary for him to give up active life on the farm; some unfortunate investments, also, somewhat impoverished him, and he went to live at the Gisholt Home for the Aged in Dane County, and there he died March 17, 1909. He was buried at Madison in the Forest Hill cemetery, by the Knights Templars, of which order he was a member. In 1915 the state legislature appropriated a fund for a monument to Governor Taylor, and a handsome shaft now marks his last resting place.

DOUBTS CONCERNING THE EXECUTION OF MARSHAL NEY

MR. R. G. THWAITES,
MADISON, WIS.

I notice that your name appears in the preface of the book entitled, *Historic Doubts of the Execution of Marshal Ney*, written by James A. Weston.

I shall very greatly appreciate any information you may be able to give me regarding the location of any of the original material used by Mr. Weston.

JAMES R. GARFIELD
Cleveland, Ohio

Dr. Thwaites died in 1913, and the following answer to the inquiry you address to him has been prepared by one of the workers in the Wisconsin Historical Library.

Many years ago Dr. L. C. Draper, the first secretary of this Society, became interested in the identity of Peter S. Ney, of North Carolina, and made a large collection of manuscripts concerning him. In 1885 and 1886 he had a brief correspondence with Mr. James A. Weston, who said he had been making similar investiga-

tions for three years, and proposed to publish a book on the subject. After Dr. Draper's death, which occurred August 26, 1891, Mr. Weston came to Madison in 1894 and had access to all the material the late secretary had collected. The *Descriptive List of Manuscript Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin* (Madison, 1906), pp. 64-66, gives a brief description of the Ney manuscripts.

It would be difficult to say, without a very detailed study, just how much of Mr. Weston's book, *Historic Doubts as to the Execution of Marshal Ney*, is based upon the Draper manuscripts, but a brief examination shows that a very large number of the statements and much of the testimony he incorporated in that volume are to be found in this material, in some cases altered and extracted to give support to the conclusion the author wished to deduce. Dr. Draper came to another conclusion from Mr. Weston, namely that the material was insufficient to prove the identity of Peter S. Ney and Marshal Ney. Mr. Weston seems to have discarded everything that tended away from his theory of identity. The only acknowledgment he saw fit to make of his use of the Draper manuscripts was the allusion to which you refer in the preface of the book, to the aid received from the late Dr. R. G. Thwaites, secretary of the Society at the time of Mr. Weston's visit thereto.

THE EARLY PREPARATION OF COFFEE

I am collecting data for an historical sketch of the American coffee trade, and I am particularly interested in obtaining accurate information concerning the beginnings of the coffee roasting business in America. Here are some of the things I would like to know:

1. How was coffee prepared for use in the coffeehouse and, later, in the home, before the advent of the dealer roasting machine?

2. I have considerable data about the old-time coffeehouses in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia but I have been unable to find any references regarding houses of similar character said to have existed in the Virginia Colony and in New Orleans.

3. Have you in the museum any specimens, models, or pictures of old-time coffeepots, coffee roasters, coffee grinders, etc.?

I will be grateful to you for any suggestions you may make me as to the best procedure to follow in order to obtain the information and pictures I am seeking.

W. H. UKERS

Editor, *The Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*
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